

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2004, claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 have been canceled, and claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 13 have been amended. Claims 2, 5-6 and 8-13 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

On page (2) of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannan et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,898,375 (Hannan) in view of Miya et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,087 (Miya) in view of Ashby, U.S. Patent No. 5,635,892 (Ashby) in view of Novak, U.S. Patent No. 6,606,012 (Novak). However, on page (3) of the Office Action, claims 3-6, 8-10, and 13 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants' attorney acknowledges the indication of allowable claims. In response, the following actions have been taken:

- Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been deleted;
- The limitations of the allowable claim 4 have been imported into claim 2, so that independent claim 2 is now allowable; and
- The wording and dependencies of the balance of the claims have been amended to accommodate the other amendments.

Thus, Applicants' attorney submits that claims 2, 5-6 and 8-13 are now allowable over the prior art.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.


Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

Howard Hughes Center
6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90045
(310) 641-8797

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By: 
Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500

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